



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we move closer and closer to summer break, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work each of you does every single day. The commitment, compassion, and expertise you bring to your roles in career counseling and employment readiness truly make a difference. Supporting students as they explore their passions, set meaningful goals, and navigate their next steps is no small task—and yet you show up and do it with dedication and heart. This break is a chance to recharge, reflect, and take pride in the impact you’ve already made this year.

The work you do matters more than you may ever fully see. For many students, you are the steady support, the encouraging voice, and the connection to opportunities they may not have known existed. Whether it’s helping a student build confidence, secure a work-based learning experience, or simply feel seen and supported, your efforts are powerful and lasting. The difference you make is real, and it is absolutely worth the energy and care you invest each day. Thank you for continuing to show up for students in ways that change lives.

As you prepare for summer, we also encourage you to look ahead to continued learning and connection in August. The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education Summer Conference will be held in Spokane from August 2–5, and registration will be opening soon. This is a fantastic opportunity to collaborate, gain new insights, and strengthen our collective impact. We hope to see many of you there. Until then, thank you again for being part of our organization - we appreciate you.

— Nora Zollweg, WA-CCER President

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to our 2026 WACCER Scholarship Recipients

The Washington Association for Career Counseling & Employment Readiness (WACCER) scholarships expanded this year to offer four \$1000 scholarships. Two scholarships will be granted to two-year college and university bound students and two scholarships for students pursuing opportunities at technical colleges and in the trades.

A huge thank you to our selection committee! We had 18 applicants for the college & university scholarships and 7 for the technical college & trades. Thank you to all of our members who worked with students preparing their applications.

This year's WACCER Scholarship recipients are:

University

Autumn Pendleton - Puyallup High School
CTE Focus - Yearbook and Video Production
Future Career - CTE Teacher
Post High Plan - Central Washington University

Sukhmanpreet Kaur - Emerald Ridge High School
CTE Focus - Business & Marketing
Future Career - Business Administration - Pre-Law
Post High Plan - 4-year university

Selection Committee - Jewel Robinson, Dana Selby, Marcy Proctor

Technical College

Cristina Gomez - Cascadia Tech Academy
CTE Focus - Culinary
Future Career - Chef
Post High Plan - Culinary Institute of America

Trevor Jellison - Emerald Ridge High School
CTE Focus - Mechatronics
Future Career - Aerospace Manufacturing & Automation
Post High Plan - Clover Park Technical College

Selection Committee - Cassandra Oliver, Laura Lindersmith, Crystal Asplund

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE:
WA-ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE



August 2-5, 2026

Sunday-Wednesday

The Davenport Grand Hotel

Spokane WA

[Register Now](#)

[More Information](#)

HOPE OPTIMISM TENACITY

Join us for a comprehensive professional development experience designed to elevate Career and Technical Education. Our 2026 sessions are curated to provide actionable strategies, innovative models, and the emerging tools necessary to lead in today's educational landscape.

Make Connections

Focus on quality conversations, genuine curiosity, and meaningful follow-up.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Niki Spears



Inspirational Speakers

As a FOREVER Educator and School Leader, Niki believes that leadership extends beyond a title or a position, but is a belief that every member of the school is a leader (teachers, staff, students, families) as they can make a change from where they are, no matter the position.

Exhibitor Trade Show

Features companies offering the largest and latest collection of CTE products and services, exhibitor sessions, demonstrations, and a wealth of connection opportunities.

Attendees will encounter a diverse array of sessions that bridge the gap between the classroom and the workforce. Whether you are focused on building sustainable school-based enterprises or refining equity and access within your programs, this conference provides the framework to turn vision into reality.